

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In preparing predetermined information relating to product sales, as required by a regulatory entity not a party to the sales, from product sales data describing the sales maintained in one or more external computer and/or database systems, where the product sales data at least describes products sold, prices at which the products were sold, adjustments to sales of the products and parties to which the products were sold, and where the information is derived from the product sales data through one or more predetermined algorithms, a computerized method of acquiring and managing the product sales data, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first set of said product sales data from said one or more external systems;

storing said first product sales data set;

replacing or modifying said first product sales data set, while maintaining said first product sales data as it existed prior to said replacing or modifying step so that it is distinguishable from said replaced or modified product sales data set ("second product sales data set");

selecting one of said first product sales data set and said second product sales data set;

executing said one or more algorithms upon said product sales data set selected at said selecting step; and

storing a first set of said information derived at said executing step.

2. The method as in claim 1, including
repeating said selecting and executing steps for the other
of said first product sales data set and said second product
5 sales data set, and

storing a second set of said information derived at said
repeated executing step, while maintaining said first
information set as it existed following said first executing
step.

3. The method as in claim 1, wherein said first storing
step includes storing said first product sales data set in
association with a first timing tag, said first timing tag being
related to a time at which said first product sales data set is
received.

4. The method as in claim 3, wherein said timing tag
includes a time at which said first product sales data set is
received ("first store time") and a first expiration time.

5. The method as in claim 4, wherein said first
expiration time defaults at said first storing step to a date
substantially beyond said first store time.

6. The method as in claim 4, wherein said replacing or
modifying step includes storing said second product sales data
set with a second timing tag, said second timing tag being
related to a time at which said first product sales data set is
replaced or modified.

7. The method as in claim 6, wherein said second timing tag includes a time at which said first product sales data set is replaced or modified ("second store time") and a second expiration time, and wherein said replacing or modifying step
5 includes changing said first expiration time to equal said second store time.

8. The method as in claim 7, wherein said selecting step includes selecting a desired time and selecting said product sales data set having an effective period, said effective period being defined by said store time and said expiration time of said product sales data, within which said desired time falls.

9. The method as in claim 3, wherein said first product sales data set includes a plurality of data records, and wherein each said data record includes a said first timing tag.

10. The method as in claim 1, wherein said replacing or modifying step includes receiving said second product sales data set from said one or more external system.

11. The method as in claim 1, wherein said first product sales data describes said sales occurring over a predetermined period of time, and wherein said second product sales data set describes said sales occurring over the same said predetermined period as said first product sales data set.

12. The method as in claim 11,

wherein said second storing step includes storing said
first information set in association with a first timing tag,
said first timing tag being related to a time at which said
5 first information set is derived at said executing step,

wherein said method includes repeating said selecting and
executing steps for the other of said first product sales data
set and said second product sales data set, and storing a second
set of said information derived at said repeated executing step
10 in association with a second timing tag, said second timing tag
being related to a time at which said second information set is
derived at said repeated executing step.

13. The method as in claim 1, wherein said product sales
data describes sales of pharmaceuticals and wherein said product
sales data includes the number of said products sold, and prices
at which said products were sold, prices at which a manufacturer
5 of said products has agreed under one or more contracts to sell
products to predetermined customers.

14. The method as in claim 13, wherein said adjustments
include adjustments to prices of one or more said product sales,
rebates paid by said manufacturer, and charge backs paid by said
manufacturer pursuant to said one or more contracts.

15. The method as in claim 14, wherein said algorithms
determine an average manufacturing price, wherein said average

manufacturing price describes net sales of said products over a predetermined time period divided by the number of said products sold in said period.

16. The method as in claim 15, wherein, in determining said average manufacturing price, said algorithms assess said net sales for products where said parties to which said products are sold are wholesalers that in turn sell said products to retail pharmacies.

17. The method as in claim 14, wherein said algorithms determine a best price of selected said products, wherein said best price describes the lowest price charged by said manufacturer for said selected products.

18. The method as in claim 17, wherein said best price excludes nominal prices of said selected products.

19. The method as in claim 14, wherein said algorithms determine a non-federal average manufacturing price, wherein said non-federal average manufacturing price describes net sales of said products over a predetermined time period divided by the number of said certain products sold in said period, and wherein said algorithms assess said net sales for products where said parties to which said products are sold are wholesalers that in turn sell said products to non-federal customers.

20. The method as in claim 1, including downloading
outputting first information set in a predetermined report
format.

21. In preparing predetermined information relating to
product sales, as required by a regulatory entity not a party to
the sales, from product sales data describing the sales
maintained in one or more external computer and/or database
5 systems, where the product sales data at least describes
products sold, prices at which the products were sold,
adjustments to sales of the products and parties to which the
products were sold, and where the information is derived from
the product sales data through one or more predetermined
10 algorithms, a computerized method of acquiring and managing the
product sales data, said method comprising the steps of:
receiving a plurality of sets of said product sales data
from said one or more external systems, wherein each said
product sales data set describes said sales occurring over a
15 predetermined period of time and wherein said predetermined
period of time is the same for each of said plurality of product
sales data sets;
storing each said product sales data set in association
with a timing tag, said timing tag being related to a time at
20 which said product sales data set is received;

selecting one of said product sales data sets through its
said associated timing tag;

executing said one or more algorithms upon said product
sales data set selected at said selecting step; and

25 storing a first set of said information derived at said
executing step.

22. The method as in claim 21, wherein each said timing
tag includes a time at which its associated said product sales
data set is received ("store time") and an expiration time and
wherein, for each said product sales data set having a next
5 subsequently received product sales data set, said expiration
time is equal to said store time of said next subsequently
received product sales data set.

23. The method as in claim 22, wherein, upon said storing
step for each said product sales data set and prior to said
storing step for a subsequent said product sales data set, said
expiration time defaults to a date substantially beyond said
store time.

24. The method as in claim 22, wherein said selecting step
includes selecting a desired time and selecting said product
sales data set having an effective period, said effective period
being defined by said store time and said expiration time of
said product sales data, within which said desired time falls.

25. The method as in claim 21, wherein
said product sales data describes sales of pharmaceuticals,
said product sales data includes the number of said
products sold, prices at which said products were sold, and
5 prices at which a manufacturer of said products has agreed under
one or more contracts to sell products to predetermined
customers, and

10 said adjustments include adjustments to prices of one or
more said product sales, rebates paid by said manufacturer, and
charge backs paid by said manufacturer pursuant to said one or
more contracts.

26. The method as in claim 25, wherein said algorithms
determine

5 an average manufacturing price, wherein said average
manufacturing price describes net sales of said products over a
predetermined time period divided by the number of said products
sold in said period,

a best price of selected said products, wherein said best
price describes the lowest price charged by said manufacturer
for said selected products, and

10 a non-federal average manufacturing price, wherein said
non-federal average manufacturing price describes net sales of
said products over a predetermined time period divided by the
number of said certain products sold in said period, and wherein

said algorithms, in determining said non-federal average
15 manufacturing price, assess said net sales for products where
said parties to which said products are sold are wholesalers
that in turn sell said products to non-federal customers.

27. The method as in claim 26, wherein, in determining
said average manufacturing price, said algorithms assess net
sales for products where said parties to which said products are
sold are wholesalers that in turn sell said products to retail
pharmacies.

28. In preparing predetermined information relating to
sales of pharmaceuticals, as required by a regulatory entity not
a party to the sales, from product sales data describing the
sales maintained in one or more external computer and/or
5 database systems, where the product sales data at least includes
the number of products sold, prices at which the products were
sold, parties to which the products were sold, prices at which a
manufacturer of the products has agreed under one or more
contracts to sell the products to predetermined customers,
10 adjustments, if any, to the prices of the sales, charge backs
paid by the manufacturer pursuant to the contracts and rebates
paid by the manufacturer, a computerized method of acquiring the
product sales data and determining the information therefrom,
said method comprising the steps of:

15 receiving a set of said product sales data from said one or
more external systems;

storing said product sales data set;

determining an average manufacturing price for selected
said products, wherein said average manufacturing price
20 describes net sales of said products over a first predetermined
time period divided by the number of said products sold in said
first period;

determining a best price of selected said products, wherein
said best price describes the lowest price charged by said
25 manufacturer for said selected products over a second
predetermined time period;

determining a non-federal average manufacturing price for
selected said products, wherein said non-federal average
manufacturing price describes net sales of said products over a
30 third predetermined time period divided by the number of said
certain products sold in said third period, and wherein said net
sales for non-federal average manufacturing price is assessed
for products where said parties to which said products are sold
are wholesalers that in turn sell said products to non-federal
35 customers; and

storing and outputting said average manufacturing prices,
said best prices and said non-federal average manufacturing
prices.

29. The method as in claim 28, wherein said first period, said second period and said third period are the same and are a predetermined calendar quarter.

30. The method as in claim 29, wherein said outputting step includes outputting said average manufacturing prices and said best prices to a remote system that manages state Medicaid payments.

31. The method as in claim 28, wherein said parties are defined as predetermined trade classes describing types of pharmaceutical customers.

32. The method as in claim 31, wherein said trade classes are grouped as wholesale, retail or federal trade classes.

33. In preparing predetermined information relating to product sales, as required by a regulatory entity not a party to the sales, from product sales data describing the sales maintained in one or more external computer and/or database

5 systems, where the product sales data at least describes products sold, prices at which the products were sold, adjustments to sales of the products and parties to which the products were sold, and where the information is derived from the product sales data through one or more predetermined
10 algorithms, a computerized system for acquiring and managing the product sales data, said system comprising:

a computer program configured to receive a first set of
said product sales data from said one or more external systems;
and

15 a database;

wherein said computer program is configured to

store said first product sales data set in said
database,

replace or modify said first product sales data set,
20 while maintaining said first product sales data as it existed
prior to said replacement or modification so that it is
distinguishable from said replaced or modified product sales
data set ("second product sales data set"),

receive a selection of one of said first product sales
25 data set and said second product sales data set,

execute, responsively to receipt of said selection,
said one or more algorithms upon said selected product sales
data set, and

store a first set of said information derived from
30 said selected product sales data set.

34. The system as in claim 33, wherein said computer
program is configured to

receive a selection of the other of said first product
sales data set and said second product sales data set,

5 execute, responsively to receipt of said selection, said
one or more algorithms upon said other of said first product
sales data set and said second product sales data set, and
store a second set of said information derived from said
other of said first product sales data set and said second
10 product sales data set, while maintaining said first information
set.

35. The system as in claim 33, wherein said computer
program is configured to store said first product sales data set
in association with a first timing tag, said first timing tag
being related to a time at which said first product sales data
set is received.

36. The system as in claim 35, wherein
said timing tag includes a time at which said first product
sales data set is received ("first store time") and a first
expiration time,

5 said computer program is configured to store said second
product sales data set with a second timing tag, said second
timing tag being related to a time at which said first product
sales data set is replaced or modified,

said second timing tag includes a time at which said first
10 product sales data set is replaced or modified ("second store
time") and a second expiration time, and

said computer program is configured to, upon replacing or modifying said first product sales data set, change said first expiration time to equal said second store time.

37. The system as in claim 36, wherein said computer program is configured to, upon receiving a desired time, select said product sales data set having an effective period, said effective period being defined by said store time and said expiration time of said product sales data, within which said
5 desired time falls.

38. The system as in claim 33, wherein
said first product sales data describes said sales occurring over a predetermined period of time, and wherein said second product sales data set describes said sales occurring
5 over the same said predetermined period as said first product sales data set,

said computer program is configured to store said first information set in association with a first timing tag, said first timing tag being related to a time at which said first
10 information set is derived at said executing step,

said computer program is configured to receive a selection of the other of said first product sales data set and said second product sales data set,

said computer program is configured to, responsively to
15 receipt of said selection, execute said one or more algorithms

upon said other of said first product sales data set and said second product sales data set, and

said computer program is configured to store a second set of said information derived from said other of said first product sales data set and said second product sales data set in association with a second timing tag, said second timing tag being related to a time at which said second information set is derived.

39. In preparing predetermined information relating to product sales, as required by a regulatory entity not a party to the sales, from product sales data describing the sales maintained in one or more external computer and/or database systems, where the product sales data at least describes products sold, prices at which the products were sold, adjustments to sales of the products and parties to which the products were sold, and where the information is derived from the product sales data through one or more predetermined algorithms, a computerized system for acquiring and managing the product sales data, said system comprising:

a computer program configured to receive a plurality of sets of said product sales data from said one or more external systems, wherein each said product sales data set describes said sales occurring over a predetermined period of time and wherein

said predetermined period of time is the same for each of said plurality of product sales data sets; and

a database,

wherein said computer program is configured to

20 store each said product sales data set in said database in association with a timing tag, said timing tag being related to a time at which said product sales data set is received,

25 receive a selection of one of said product sales data sets through its said associated timing tag,

 execute, responsively to receipt of said selection, said one or more algorithms upon said product sales data set selected at said selecting step, and

30 store a first set of said information derived from said selected product sales data set.

40. The system as in claim 39, wherein each said timing tag includes a time at which its associated said product sales data set is received ("store time") and an expiration time and wherein, for each said product sales data set having a next
5 subsequently received product sales data set, said expiration time is equal to said store time of said next subsequently received product sales data set.

41. The system as in claim 40, wherein said computer
program is configured to, upon receiving a desired time, select
said product sales data set having an effective period, said
effective period being defined by said store time and said
5 expiration time of said product sales data, within which said
desired time falls.

42. The system as in claim 39, wherein
said product sales data describes sales of pharmaceuticals,
said product sales data includes the number of said
products sold, prices at which said products were sold, and
5 prices at which a manufacturer of said products has agreed under
one or more contracts to sell products to predetermined
customers, and

said adjustments include adjustments to prices of one or
more said product sales, rebates paid by said manufacturer, and
10 charge backs paid by said manufacturer pursuant to said one or
more contracts.

43. The system as in claim 42, wherein said algorithms
determine

an average manufacturing price, wherein said average
manufacturing price describes net sales of said products over a
5 predetermined time period divided by the number of said products
sold in said period,

a best price of selected said products, wherein said best price describes the lowest price charged by said manufacturer for said selected products, and

10 a non-federal average manufacturing price, wherein said non-federal average manufacturing price describes net sales of said products over a predetermined time period divided by the number of said certain products sold in said period, and wherein said net sales for non-federal average manufacturing price is
15 assessed for products where said parties to which said products are sold are wholesalers that in turn sell said products to non-federal customers.

44. The system as in claim 43, wherein said algorithms, in determining said average manufacturing price, assess net sales for products where said parties to which said products are sold are wholesalers that in turn sell said products to retail pharmacies.

45. In preparing predetermined information relating to sales of pharmaceuticals, as required by a regulatory entity not a party to the sales, from product sales data describing the sales maintained in one or more external computer and/or
5 database systems, where the product sales data at least includes the number of products sold, prices at which the products were sold, parties to which the products were sold, prices at which a manufacturer of the products has agreed under one or more

contracts to sell the products to predetermined customers,
10 adjustments, if any, to the prices of the sales, charge backs
paid by the manufacturer pursuant to the contracts and rebates
paid by the manufacturer, a computerized system for acquiring
the product sales data and determining the information
therefrom, said system comprising:

15 a computer program configured to receive a set of said
product sales data from said one or more external systems; and
a database,

wherein said computer program is configured to
store said product sales data set in said database,
20 determine an average manufacturing price for selected
said products, wherein said average manufacturing price
describes net sales of said products over a first predetermined
time period divided by the number of said products sold in said
first period,

25 determine a best price of selected said products,
wherein said best price describes the lowest price charged by
said manufacturer for said selected products over a second
predetermined time period,

determine a non-federal average manufacturing price
30 for selected said products, wherein said non-federal average
manufacturing price describes net sales of said products over a
third predetermined time period divided by the number of said

certain products sold in said third period, and wherein said
computer program assesses said net sales for non-federal average
35 manufacturing price for products where said parties to which
said products are sold are wholesalers that in turn sell said
products to non-federal customers, and
store and output said average manufacturing prices,
said best prices and said non-federal average manufacturing
40 prices.